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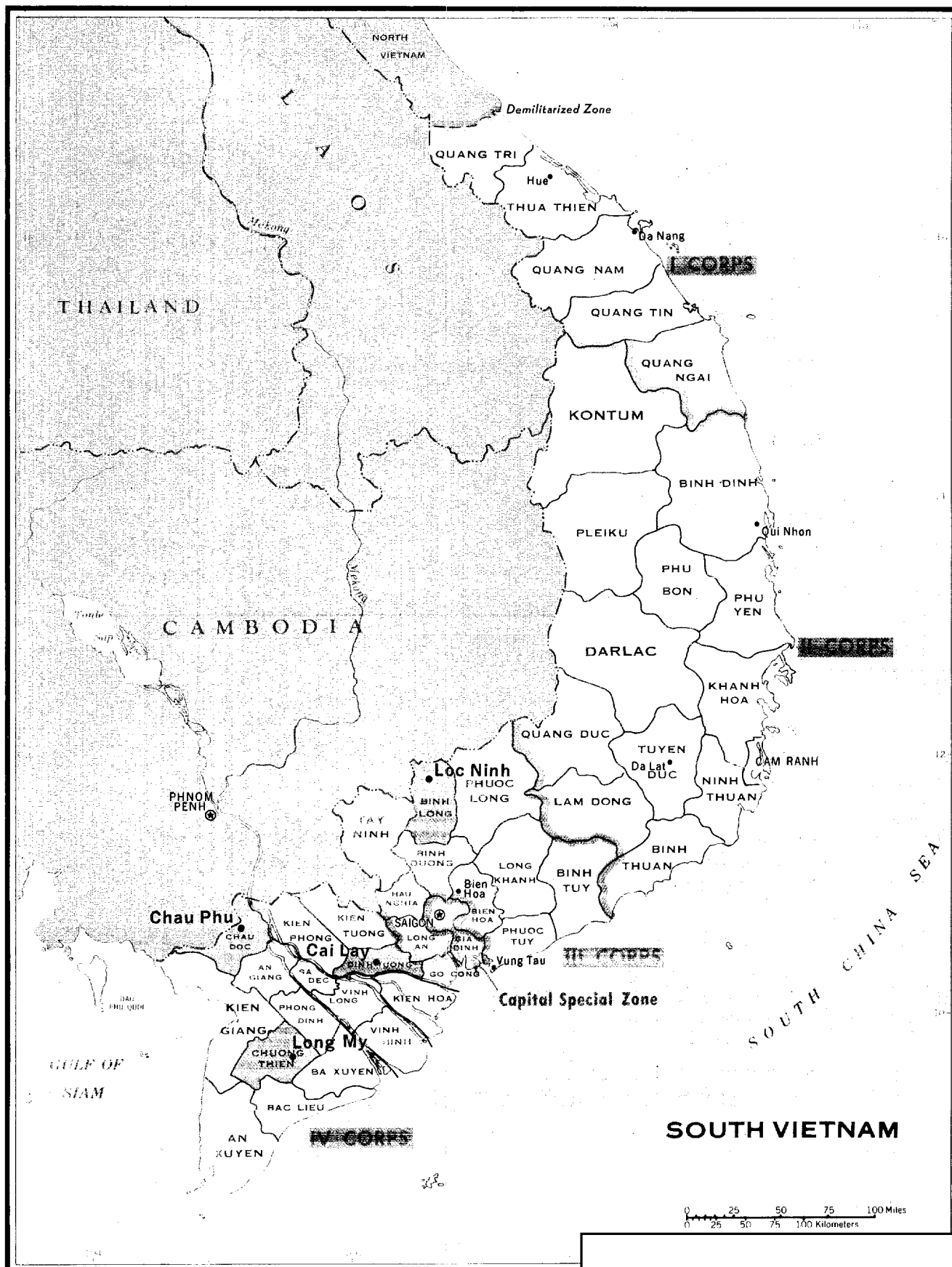
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*South Vietnam: Speculation continues that militant and moderate Buddhist followers may be heading for a break with their leaders.

Ho Huu Tuong, lower house deputy and a Buddhist university official, told an embassy officer on 2 November that a personal reconciliation between Thich Tri Quang and Thich Tam Chau, leaders of the militant and the moderate factions respectively, is unlikely. Tuong said he sees the removal of Quang and Chau and the merger of the two factions into a more middle-of-the-road "third force" as the only solution to the current impasse over the charter issue.

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[REDACTED] President

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Thieu's brother has indicated, moreover, that the government would be receptive to any charter recommendations made by a new, reconciled Buddhist grouping. There are as yet no indications, however, that such a break is imminent.

Significant contacts with enemy forces reported over the weekend were confined to the IV Corps Tactical Zone where mortar and ground assaults were launched against the towns of Chau Phu, Cai Lay and Long My. A total of 38 soldiers and civilians were killed and another 179 were wounded in the attacks which appeared to be a continuation of a series of hostile actions begun in this region on 28 October.

The situation remained quiet in the vicinity of Loc Ninh where heavy fighting has occurred during the past ten days. Officially adjusted casualty figures through 2 November indicated that 31 friendly and 720 enemy troops had been killed around Loc Ninh. Field reports on 5 November showed that the number of enemy dead subsequently had risen to 771.

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Yemen: The bloodless coup in republican Yemen, which had almost unanimous support in the capital, is not expected to have an immediate effect upon republican-royalist relations.

A council of exiled leaders, recently released from Cairo, overthrew President Sallal's regime yesterday while he was on his way to Moscow to attend the 50th anniversary celebrations. The new leaders are al-Iryani, Ahmad Numan, and Muhammad Ali Uthman, all previous republican cabinet members; the new premier is Muhsin al-Aini, former Yemeni ambassador to the US. These men, unlike the Sallal regime, enjoy wide tribal support and are expected to give unity to the disintegrating state while Egyptian troops are being withdrawn.

The new group is strongly republican and firm in its opposition to the royal family of Hamid al-Din. In the long run however, the new regime's tribal support may enable it to deal with the other branches of the same tribes who form the bulk of the loyalist forces and thus pave the way for a national reconciliation.

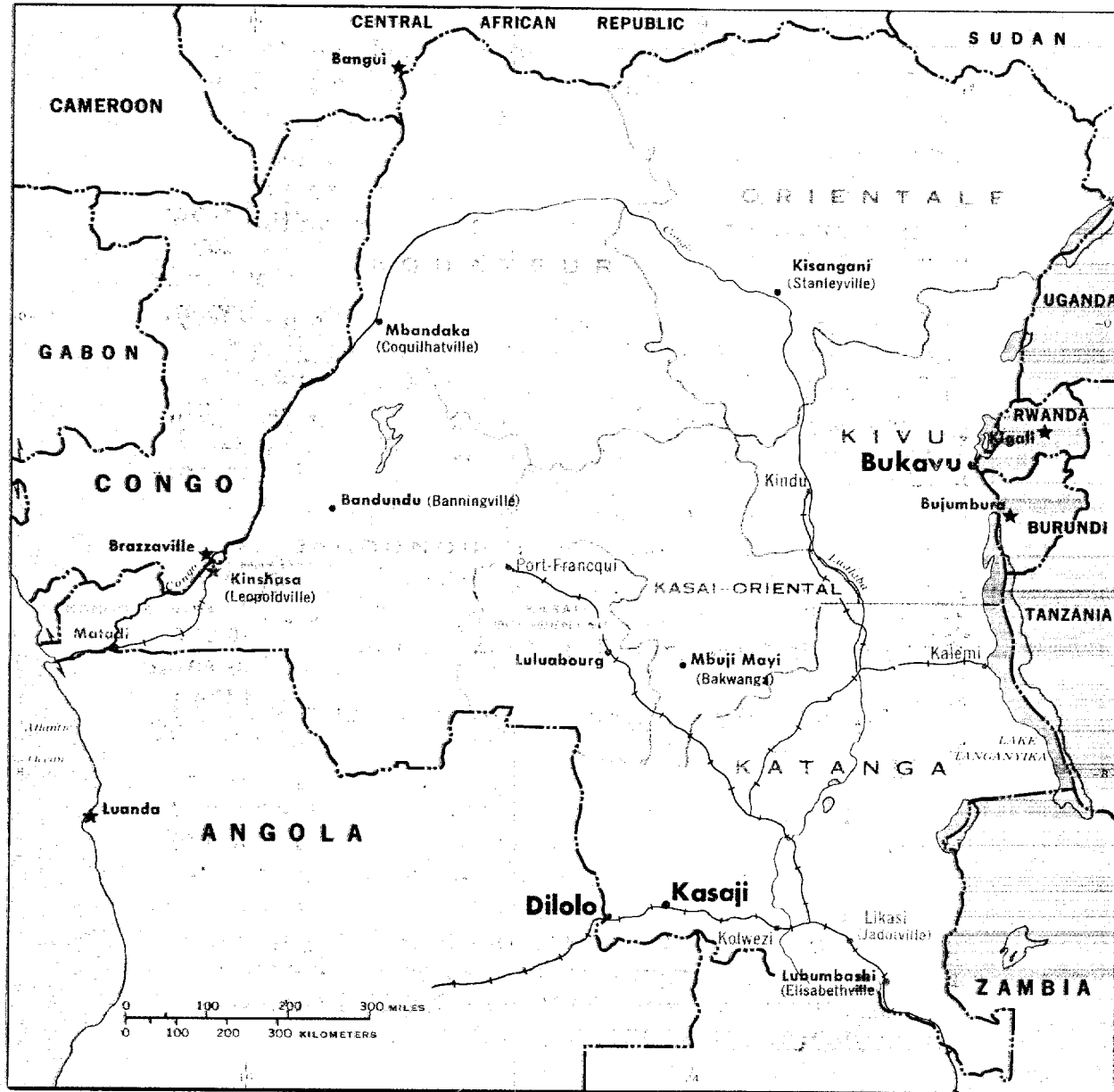
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DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO



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Congo (Kinshasa): Efforts are now being made to evacuate Lt. Colonel Schramme and his troops from Rwanda, where they fled from Bukavu on the night of 4 November.

Schramme's mercenaries and the Katangan troops apparently were worn down by the unsophisticated but persistent Congolese Army (ANC) offensive that began last week. They are now encamped under Rwandan Army guard a few miles from the border. Rwandan President Kayibanda wants them out of his country as soon as possible. The evacuation effort for the 2,000 soldiers and dependents is still hampered by a shortage of aircraft. It is also running into some opposition from the Congolese Government, which wants Schramme's force extradited to the Congo.

The military situation in western Katanga remains unclear. The band of mercenaries who invaded on 1 November may now be concentrated at Kasaji awaiting reinforcements. The ANC apparently has reoccupied the border town of Dilolo. There is no confirmation of Congolese press reports that the mercenaries are trying to flee south back into Angola. Part of the ANC garrison in Kinshasa has been flown to Katanga, leaving the Congolese capital more than ever vulnerable to a direct attack.

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NOTE

*South Arabia: Rival Arab nationalist groups have broken their truce and renewed combat in "a war of total extermination" which has killed at least 70 persons and wounded 250 in two days of fighting. The heads of both the National Liberation Front (NLF) and the Front for the Liberation of Occupied South Yemen (FLOSY), now negotiating in Cairo to form a unified government, appealed to their comrades to respect the cease-fire imposed by the South Arabian Army last night. The gangs, which include many well-armed hoodlums, are apparently ignoring the calls for peace as they contend for street victories and personal revenge.

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